Colored Bapt. Conv. of Ala. 1873, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78,
The Minutes are in 1873.

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

COLORED MISSIONARY

BAPTIST CONVENTION,

OF ALABAMA,

HELD WITH THE

Saint Louis Street Baptist Church,

OF MOBILE, ALA.,

November 17th to 24th, 1875.

L.Q.
FILE-1
C-28

☞ Please read this Minute through. We want you to see what we are trying to do, and we want you to come and help us. On account of our inexperience and lack of learning all our enterprises are profound problems. COME OVER AND HELP US.

HENRY FARROW & CO., PRINTERS,
No. 30 North Water Street, Mobile.

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VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY RICHMOND, VA.

NAMES OF OFFICERS OF CONVENTION.

Elder J. A. FOSTER, President.

Elder M. TYLER, Vice President.

Elder THOMAS SMITH, Treasurer.

Elder J. W. STEVENS, Recording Secretary.

Elder C. O. BOOTH, Corresponding Secretary.

OFFICERS OF DISTRICTS.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT.

T. DICKSON, President. A. JACKSON, Secretary.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.

M. TYLER, President. J. L. MONTAGUE, Secretary.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT.

H. WOOD, President. H. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT.

J. SHORTER, President. B. CLARK, Secretary.

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

Colored Missionary Baptist Conference,

OF

ALABAMA.

The Eighth Session of the Colored Missionary Baptist Convention of Alabama met in St. Louis Street Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., at 11 o'clock, A. M. Vice-President M. Tyler, in the Chair.

Elder Tyler called the Convention to order and said:

"*Dear Brethren*—Not by our goodness, but by the goodness of our God, we are assembled in Convention again. And now, may all we do, be done to His Glory."

After which Elder Tyler read the 12 chap. Romans, sang hymn 760 in the Psalmist, and called Elder H. Stevens to lead in prayer.

The Pastor of St. Louis Street Church, Elder A. Butler, came forward and tendered a welcome to the Convention on behalf of his Church. In answer to which, Elder Tyler replied in the name of the Convention.

Carried that the introductory sermon be postponed till 7½ P. M.

To a call of the roll the Churches, Associations, etc., answered as appears in the statistical table. (See Table.)

On calling for Messengers from corresponding bodies, Elder N. G. Scurlock, Messenger from The Southern and Southwestern Convention and Elder R. Ramsey, Messenger from The General Missionary Association of Mississipi, came forward, received the hand of welcome from the President, and was introduced to the Convention.

Feet Washing was discussed and condemned.

The President appointed the following Commitees: Committee on Devotional Exercises, Committee on Finance, Committee on Permanent Organization and Committee on Application of New Bodies. Adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

Vice-President M. Tyler in the Chair. Usual devotional exercises.

The Rev. Mr. Cargille, of the A. M. E. Church, introduced to the Convention.

Constitution and Rules of Order read.

Motion carried that the Corresponding Secretary notify delinquent Churches of their indebtedness to the Convention. Adjourned to meet at 7½ o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder P. Underwood.

NIGHT SESSION.

President J. A. Foster in the Chair.

Elder J. A. Foster introduced Elder J. W. Stevens, who read the 3d chapter of the Book of Malachi, sang Hymn 410 and led the Convention in prayer. After which Elder Stevens proceeded to preach the introductory sermon from Isaiah, 60th chapter, 12th verse: "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

The speaker showed to us that God would utterly waste the colored people if they refused to serve Him; but if they would serve Him faithfully, He would bring them to success, notwithstanding any powers that may bear to the contrary.

Prayer by Elder Butler.

Upon calling a collection for the Convention, the sum of $18.00 was received.

The President appointed an Auditing Committee as follows: Elders Thos. Smith, and J. W. Stevens, and Bro. A. H. Curtis. Adjourned to 10 o'clock Thursday.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Prayer meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M., led by Elder Montague.

10 *o'clock.*—President J. A. Foster in the Chair.

The President opened by reading 24th Psalm, singing 712 hymn and prayer. Minutes of first day's session read and adopted. As there were complaints against Mt. Zion, Whistler, Cottage Hill, Grand Bay, Shiloh, St. Louis and Virginia Street Churches, they were referred to the Special Committee of Seven, appointed on Church Complaints.

Delinquent Churches referred to same Committee.

The Convention tendered a welcome to visitors. Adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

President in the Chair. Usual devotional exercises.

A resolution of Bro. A. H. Curtis was adopted, requesting the appointment of the following committees: Committee on Sunday Schools, Committee on Temperance, Committee on Mission Work and Committee on Printing.

The Committee on Church Complaints reported on Monday Street Church as follows:

We your Committee on Church Grievances, have carefully and prayerfully examined Monday Street Church, with the light we have been able to obtain upon it, and our conclusion is, that the material of which Monday Street Church was organized was not in good order; therefore, we recommend that Monday Street Church be erased from the list of Churches. We further recommend, that those brethren and sisters composing Monday Street Church, return to the Church from which they were excluded

and seek a reconciliation. We also recommend—as this Church has caused trouble—that those who brought it into the Convention, be requested to give satifaction for causing the Convention to err.

After Elder Burk, Bro. A. H. Curtis and Bro. Geo. Fears had spoken to the report, it was adopted.

Elder A. Butler came forward, acknowledged his error and asked pardon for assisting Monday Street Church into the Convention. Pardon granted.

Elder Benj. Buck was appointed a Committee to confer with his Church, and ask them to co-operate with the Convention.

Treasurer's report was referred to the Auditing Committee.

Elder McAlpine asked to be excused from acting in the case of Virginia Street Church. Excused.

The President announced the committees asked for by the resolution of Bro. Curtis. Adjourned to 7½ o'clock P. M. Prayer by Bro. Curtis.

NIGHT SESSION.

President in the Chair. After other devotional exercises, Elder Tyler proceeded to preach the doctrinal sermon from Mark, 16th chap. 15th verse—"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The sermon was thrilling.

Prayer by Elder P. Underwood.

On taking a collection the sum of $22.60 was received.

Motion prevailed to read Church letters. Adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M., Friday.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

Elder E. Nicholis led prayer meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M.

President J. A. Foster in the Chair. Elder Phillips, of Tuskegee, led the usual devotional exercises.

Minutes of Thursday read, amended and adopted.

The Committee on Church Complaints submitted a supplementary report as follows:

We, your Committee on Church Grievances, have carefully examined the Churches referred to us on the second day's session of the Convention, and our conclusion on the part of Mount Zion, Whistler, Cottage Hill and Shiloh is, that they are regular, orderly and in good standing. Our conclusion with respect to Virginia Street, Grand Bay and St. Louis is, that they are not in good standing.

After Bro. H. J. Europe, pastor of Virginia Street Church had spoken five minutes the report was adopted and the last named Churches erased from the Church roll.

Motion carried that nothing more be said of Monday Street Church than is said of the Churches last named.

Carried that Elders N. G. Scurlock and R. Ramsey address the Convention on the object of their mission to this body.

Elder Scurlock, of Athens, said that his mission was (1) to encourage a union of colored Baptists throughout America, and (2) the building of a theological school in Alabama for the education of the colored ministry, in order that we may be the better able to defend ourselves against "popery."

A resolution of Elder Scurlock was referred to a committee.

Elder R. Ramsey, of Meridian, presented a letter asking the fraternal Union of the Baptists of Mississippi and Alabama, and the co-operation of the two States in the erection of an institution of learning, for

the instruction of the colored ministry. Elder Ramsey stated that some of our white brethren of Mississippi were assisting his Association in raising an educational fund.

A letter from Elder W. G. Strong, of the A. M. E. Zion Church, of which the following is an extract, was read and ordered on the minutes:

To the President of the Baptist Convention:

Dear Brother—Permit me to send my greeting to the members of the Convention and your honored self. I humbly trust that the great Head of the Church will be with you. * * * * * * * It will afford me great pleasure to have my pulpit supplied by members of your body on Sabbath next. God bless you.

Your companion in arms,

WILBUR G. STRONG.

A resolution fixing the business hours of the Convention as follows, was adopted: President appoint a Brother to lead Prayer Meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M. each day. Convention convene for business at 10 A. M. and adjourn at 1 P. M; convene at 3 P. M. and adjourn at 5 P. M.; assemble at 7½ P. M. and adjourn at will.

Reading of letters.

Committee on Application of New Bodies reported. Report adopted. (See report on Statistical Table under "New Bodies.")

Committee on Resolutions appointed as follows: W. H. McAlpine, J. W. Stevens and A. H. Curtis. Adjourned to 3 P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

President in the Chair. Elder J. Shorter, of Eufaula, opened with the usual devotional exercises. After which the following resolution, coming from Elder Jno. Dozier, was adopted:

Resolved, That this Convention divide the State into four districts, and elect for each district a President and Secretary, whose duties shall be (1) to obtain the names and locations of all churches and ministers not belonging to this Convention, and (2) forward said names and locations to the Secretary of this Convention, who will transmit the same to the Missionary for his instruction.

Upon motion of Elder J. W. Stevens, it was carried that the Convention send four young ministers to the Nashville College.

A committee was appointed to visit the railroad and steamboat agents and request them to allow delegates to travel at reduced rates. A. Butler and H. Thompson, Committee.

The Baptist Congregational Society of Montgomery paid the fee ($3) and was admitted to membership. Adjourned to 7½ o'clock P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

As Elder P. Murrell was not present, Elder C. O. Booth read 6 verses of the 14th chapter of John, and proceeded to preach the educational sermon from the following propositions: 1. God's image in man is a seed ordained to development. 2. In order to develop it must feed upon truth. 3. As truth may be found in nature as well as revelation, in matter as well as in mind, *Christians should be informed on all sciences.*

A collection amounting to $11.60 was lifted.

The following persons paid the fee ($2) and became life members: Elders Thos. Calloway, Wesley Brown, G. C. Casby, A. Butler and S. M. Reeves. Adjourned to Saturday 10 A. M.

FOURTH DAY'S SESSION.

Elder S. M. Reeves led Prayer from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M. Elder Thos. Glenn, of Columbus, Ga., called the Convention to order and opened with the usual devotional exercises.

President J. A. Foster in the Chair. Minutes of third day's session read and adopted.

Committee on time and place of next meeting appointed.

Bro. Curtis gave one dollar and asked that Union Church, near Marion, be placed on the roll of Churches.

A committee appointed to fix rates of representation.

The Committee on Railroads reported that they had made favorable arrangements with the Mobile and Ohio and Mobile and Montgomery Railroads, but the steamboats had refused to make any deductions.

The Committee on Religious Exercises reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

Adjourned to 7 P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

Vice-President M. Tyler in the Chair. Elder Tyler conducted the usual devotional exercises.

The Executive Board reported an article of amendment to the Constitution, pending which the Convention adjourned to Monday, 10 o'clock A. M.

The missionary sermon was preached by Elder W. H. McAlpine, in St. Louis Street Church, at 3 o'clock P. M., on Sabbath.

FIFTH DAY'S SESSION.

Elder A. Davis led Prayer Meeting.

President in the Chair. Usual devotional exercises. Minutes of Saturday read, amended and adopted.

The report of the Executive Board, pointing to constitutional amendment, recommitted.

Carried that the Convention adjourn at 1 o'clock to visit Emerson Institute.

Committee on permanent Organization reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

Committee on Temperance reported. Report adopted. (See Report.) The Rev. Mr. Cargille presented $5 to the Convention. A vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. Cargille.

Committee on Time and Place of next meeting reported—a majority and minority report. Majority report adopted. (See Report.)

One o'clock P. M. adjourned to visit the Institute.

The Convention is now in the audience room of the Institute, and the school is entertaining us with music, singing, debates, etc. President J. A. Foster requested to address the school.

Bro. Curtis on being invited to address the school said: "After comparing the past condition of our race with your present attainments, I find myself unable to *talk*, but I feel like singing '*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*' The school and Convention are singing the stanzas just named.

After hearing some encouraging remarks from the kind and energetic Superintendent of the school, Rev. E. P. Lord, the Convention adjourned to St. Louis Street Church.

President in the Chair. Adjourned to 7 o'clock P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

President in the Chair. After listening to Mr. Ceaphus give a short description of Africa, the Convention opened with prayer by Elder Blevins, of Selma.

Committee on Church Representation reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

Board of Managers reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

Committee on Education reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

SIXTH DAY'S SESSION.

Elder C. C. Crawford led Prayer Meeting.

Elder B. Clark called the Convention to order and opened with the usual devotional exercises. Minutes of Monday read and adopted.

The Committee appointed to confer with Stone Street Church, Mobile, Ala., reported that Stone Street Church was satisfied with the actions of the Convention, and had delegated her pastor to represent her in the Convention.

The Corresponding Secretary was allowed to collect money for the ministerial school.

The Committee on Corresponding Letters and Resolutions, to whom was referred the resolution of Bro. Scurlock, reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of each district is authorized and requested to hold a Deacons' and Ministers' Council at least once a year, at such time and place as is most convenient.

Missionary reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

A vote of thanks and $25 was tendered to the Missionary.

A vote of thanks was tendered the ex-Treasurer, H. Thompson.

Carried that the Committee on Permanent Organization be empowered to nominate the boards and other officers of the Convention.

The amount of $20 was donated for sextonage and lights and $3.15 paid Corresponding Secretary for moneys expended for the Convention. Adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

President in the Chair. Bro. H. Thompson, acting Secretary.

Elder B. Burk, opened by reading the 51st chapter of Isaiah, singing hymn 389, and prayer.

Elder R. Ramsey, of Mississippi, was granted leave of absence.

Committee on Nominations reported. Report adopted. (See Report.)

Committee on Sunday Schools reported. Report adopted (See Report.)

Committee on Mission Work reported. Report amended, and as amended was adopted. (See Report.)

Adjourned to 7 o'clock P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

A Special Committee appointed to examine the bond of the Treasurer.

Motion prevailed that the subject of sending four young ministers to the college be referred to the Executive Board.

The Special Committee reported upon the Treasurer's bond.

The Convention approved the Treasurer's bond.

On motion of Elder McAlpine, $50 was donated to Opelika Church, and placed in the custody of Elder Glenn.

Elder McAlpine offered the following resolution:

Whereas, We find our Ministers in great need of proper books, therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention recommend "Dag's Manual of Theology," "Pastor's Hand Book," "Pastor's Manual" and "Church Manual," as *demanding* a place in the library of every Minister of the Gospel.

Further resolved, That the Southern Baptist Publication Society, of Memphis and the American Baptist Publication Society, of Philadelphia, Pa., be and are hereby requested to sell us said works at as low a rate as possible.

A motion prevailed to send the following Messengers to the Southern and Southwestern Convention: Elders J. A. Foster, M. Tyler, W. H. McAlpine, J. W. Stepens, H. Stevens, C. Blount and Brethren A. H. Curtis and H. Thompson.

Carried to send the following Messengers to the Georgia Convention: Elders J. Shorter, T. Glenn, B. Clark and W. Wood.

Carried to send the following Messengers to the General Missionary Association of Mississippi, and the Baptist Convention of Tennessee: Elders C. O. Booth and W. H. McAlpine.

A motion prevailed that Elder E. D. Taylor of the A. M. E. Zion Church, address the Convention.

After Elder Taylor had finished his short but acceptable address, the Convention tendered him a vote of thanks.

Motion prevailed that a vote of thanks be tendered to the citizens and Churches of Mobile for hospitalities, and to the railroad and steamboat companies for liberalities bestowed upon the members of this Convention.

Brother A. R. Davison, acting Clerk.

Adjourned to Wednesday 10 A. M.

SEVENTH DAYS SESSION.

Elder E. Thornton led Prayer Meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M.

President in the Chair. Minutes of yesterday read and adopted.

Carried that the President receive $10 as payment for moneys expended in the business of the Convention.

The Executive Board was requested to so amend the Constitution as to make a free basis of Church representation, and to report said amendment to the Secretary in time to enter these Minutes.

The Committee on Printing recommended that the Secretary print a thousand copies of the Minutes.

Carried that the Secretary receive $30 for his services.

Carried that the Secretary be allowed to abridge the Minutes as much as possible.

The Recording Secretary was paid $10.

At the request of the Secretary, $75 was donated for printing, and placed in the custody of Elder B. Burk.

The former Secretary presented bills showing that the printers of the last Minutes had received payment.

On motion of Bro. H. Thompson, a vote of thanks was tendered to the officers of the Convention.

Elder B. R. Jackson addressed the Convention with words that refreshed us like the dews of Hermon.

The Committee on Finance reported. (See Report.)

The Convention then adjourned, sang a hymn, and shook the parting hand, and as each one set his mind upon his own field of labor, all

melted into weeping, and thought we were parting to meet *no more on earth*, O, thank God, for the blessed hope—we will meet where the battle cry is never heard, and no one says farewell!

The next meeting of the Convention will be with the First Baptist Church of Talladega, on Wednesday before the third Sabbath in November, 1876. J. A. FOSTER, President.

C. O. BOOTH, Corresponding Secretary.

CHURCHES.

Mount Zion, near Mobile.—E. Smith, delegate; donation $3.60.
Palestine, Demopolis—Elder J. McKisson, delegate.
Morning Star, Demopolis—Elder J. Scott, delegate; donation $3.
Selma Church—Elder J. Rouse, delegate; donation $3.
Whistler Church—Elder C. Read, delegate; donation $3.
Newbern Church—Elder H. Stephens, delegate; donation $2.50.
Stone Street Church, Mobile, Ala.—Elder B. Burk, delegate; donation $6.
Mt. Canaan Church—Elder W. H. McAlpine, delegate; ————.
First Colored Baptist Church, Montgomery—Elder J. A. Foster, delegate.
Cottage Hill Church—C. Dexter, Pastor; donation $3.
Shiloh, near Mobile—Elder J. Butler, delegate: donation $3.
St. Louis Street Church, Mobile—Elder A. Butler, Brethern C. Gibson and A. House, delegates; donation $3.
Second Baptist Church, Selma—Elder J. Blevins, delegate; donation $3.
Rehoboth Church, near Montgomery, and Mount Zion, near Montgomery—Elder T. Smith, delegate, donations, respectively, $3 each.
Rama Church, Macedonia Church and Spring Hill Church—Elders C. Blount and S. Ransom, of Calhoun Station, Lowndes County, delegates.
Lowndesboro Church—Elder Tyler, delegate; donation $2.
Baptist Church of Clayton—Elder B. Clarke, delegate.
Eufaula Church—Elder J. Shorter, delegate; donation $3.
Bellville Church, Bethany Church and Monroeville Church—Elder A. Cunningham, of Monroeville, Monroe County, delegate.
Mt. Zion Church, Selma—Elder A. White, delegate.
Siloam Church of Camden—A. Goode and D. James, delegates; donation $3.25.
Bethel Church—Elder A. Scott, delegate; ————.
Second Baptist Church of Montgomery—H. Gibson, delegate.

NEW CHURCHES.

First Colored Baptist Church of Wetumpka—Elder S. Jones, delegate.
Mt. Meigs Church—Elder J. W. Stephens, delegate.
Uniontown Church—Elder John Dozier, delegate.
Tuskegee Church—Elder D. M. Phillips, delegate.
Mt. Zion Church—C. Crawford, delegate.
Gainesville Church—Elder A. Gordon, delegate.
Mt. Pilgrim Church—Elder B. Ware, delegate.
Mt. Canaan, near Montgomery—Elder J. Ware, delegate.
Union Springs Church—Elder E. Thornton.
Citronelle Church—C. O. Booth, delegate; donation $2.50.
Baptist Church of Marion—A. H. Curtis, delegate; donation $3.
Union Church, near Marion—A. H. Curtis, delegate; donation $3.
Livingston Church—Elder C. Roberts, delegate.
Friendship Church—Donation $1.
Jacksonville Church—Donation $2.
Antioch Church, No. 2—S. M. Reeves, delegate; ————.
Greensboro Church—Donation $3.
Spring Hill Church, Tuscaloosa—
Bethlehem Church—Elder H. Brothers, of Lowndes County, delegate.
Selma Church—F. McDonald, delegate.
Beulah Church—Wm. Harrison.

A. R. DAVISON,
Chm'n Com. on New Bodies.

Dear Brethren—The Committee on New Bodies presented its report in parts, and a portion of the report was lost. Hence all the Churches that came before the Committee are not recorded. Many letters could not be fully read, consequently, I was unable to give a full statement respecting each Church and Association.

In compiling your Minutes I aimed to be brief and plain. You would do well to get a good man for Corresponding Secretary, and keep him in office until he can carry your Minutes to completeness.

If you wish our success to be sure, lean upon God and persevere.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

We, your Committee on Devotional Exercises, recommend the following arrangements for the Sabbath:

Stone Street Church—Elders B. Ware, M. Tyler, P. Underwood; Alternates, A. Cunningham J. Ware, W. Scott.

St. Louis Street Church—Elders J. Shorter, W. H. McAlpine, W. J. Stephens; Alternates, H. Wood, J. White, E. Stone.

State Street Church—Elders J. Dozier, R. Ramsey, W. H. McAlpine; Alternates, J. L. Montague, F. McDonald, J. McKisson.

St. Emanuel Street Church—Elders M. Boykin, D. Phillips, J. A. Foster; Alternates, Bros. Scott, Thos. Glenn.

Little Zion Church—Elder W. G. Stephens; Alternate, Bro. Jackson.

Franklin Street Church—Elders B. Clark, T. Smith, C. Blount; Alternates, Thos. Mosely, D. Boyd.

Government Street Congregation—Elders H. Wooddy, A. Goode; Alternates, T. Calaway, J. L. Linard.

Hope Chapel—Elder H. Brothers.

Marine Street Church—Elder A. Davis, J. W. Wood, A. Scott; Alternates, G. Casby, S. Jones, A. Gibson.

Whistler Church—Elders H. Harrison and S. M. Ransom.

For Sabbath Schools:

Stone Street Church S. S—Bro. H. Thompson.

St Louis Street Church S. S—Bro. A. H. Curtis.

State Street Church S. S—Elder J. A. Foster.

Zion Church S. S—Elder C. O. Booth.

Whistler Church S. S—Elder E. Nicholis. Elder A. BUTLER, Chm'n Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Whereas, we find that the use of ardent spirits is fraught with much injury to the cause of Christ, and to the prosperity of our people as a race, we therefore recommend that the Convention herewith request our Ministers—as they are the light of the world and salt of the earth—to live temperate lives, and urge the same upon their people, at least once a year. Respectfully submitted, Elders JNO. DOZIER,
T. SMITH,
H. BROTHERS,
F. MCDONALD,
J. SHORTER, Com.

REPORT OF FORMER TREASURER.

Total amount received November, 1874		$309.15
Paid Corresponding Secretary	$ 15.00	
Paid Recording Secretary	10.00	
Paid	6.00	
Paid for Minutes	65.00	
Paid Missionary	24.00	
Paid for book	2.50	
Paid to Elder Ashley	10.00	
Paid New Orleans Convention	5.00	
Paid for Printing	3.50	
Paid for Stationery, etc	3.00	
Total Expenditure	$144.00	$144.00
Amount on hand		$165.15

Respectfully submitted, H. THOMPSON, Treasurer.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE.

We have examined the Treasury and find that the report of the Treasurer is correct: And finding a balance of $14.75 due our former Corresponding Secretary, we recommend its payment. Respectfully submitted, Elder T. Smith,
" H. Stephens,
Bro. A. H. Curtis, Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATON.

For President—J. A. Foster, of Montgomery.
For Vice-President—M. Tyler, of Lowndesboro.
For Treasurer—T. Smith, of Montgomery.
For Recording Secretary—W. J. Stephens, of Montgomery.
For Coresponding Secretary—C. O. Booth, of Citronelle.
Respectfully submitted. W. H. McAlpine, Chm'n Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING.

Your Committee would recommend that the Convention hold its next Annual Session with the First Colored Baptist Church of Talladega, in Talladega County, on Wednesday before the third Sabbath in November, 1876, and that the following Brethren preach the several annual sermons:

The Introductory Sermon—Elder B. Burk; alternate Elder D. Phillips.
Educational Sermon—Elder P. Murrell; alternate, Elder C. O. Booth.
Doctrinal—Elder J. A. Foster; alternate, M. Tyler.
Missionary Sermon—W. H. McAlpine.

Respctfully submitted, H. Thompson,
A. House,
A. F. Curtis,
A. R. Davison,
J. E. Twitty, Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCH LETTERS, ETC.

We, your Committee, in order to obtain a correct enumeration of the colored Baptists of Alabama, recommend that each Association send the Corresponding Secretary a copy of its Minutes, or a letter showing its numbers, before the 1st of January, 1876, and send said Minutes or letter to each session of the Convention hereafter. We also recommend that each Church sending said letters to this Convention, shall state in said letters what Association it belongs to.

Respectfully submitted, H. Thompson,
M. Tyler,
J. W. Stephens,
A. H. Curtis,
J. Ware, Committee.

REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

We, the Board of Managers, in order to prepare for work, would respectfully request the Convention to allow us to incorporate under the following Constitution:

Section 1. The Board shall consist of fifteen members of this Convention to be elected by the Convention as follows: Five for one year, five for two years and five for three years.

Sec. 2. The corporate name of the Board shall be, "The Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary of the Colored Baptists of Alabama.

Sec. 3. The object of this Board shall be the erection and successful management of an institution of learning for the education of the colored ministry.

Sec. 4. All persons, regardless of race or sect, shall enjoy its benefits while complying with its laws and requisitions.

Sec. 5. Said Board shall buy, sell; deed, be deeded to; sue, be sued; plead and be impleaded, in its corporate name.

Sec. 6. All moneys donated for the establishment of the school, shall be placed in custody of a Treasurer elected by this Board, and under bond for the faithful discharge of his duty.

Sec. 7. The will of the Convention shall be the supreme law of the Board; provided, the Board shall be allowed to make an honest settlement of all its financial contracts.

Respectfully submitted, C. O. Booth,
W. H. McAlpine,
Members of the Board.

MOBILE, ALA., December 14, 1875.

We heartily approve of the action of our colored brethren in this important movement, and hereby tender our sympathy and promise a hearty co-operation. And recommend that a committee of brethren be appointed to take charge of, receive and invest any moneys that may be raised for this object.

THOS. P. MILLER,
C. E. THAMES,
WM. A. BUCK,
R. F. MANLY,
E. S. PERRYMAN,
A. P. BUSH.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Whereas, an educated ministry is one of the greatest needs of our people as a race, and the only interpreter of the truth as it is in Jesus, therefore, we would herewith request our ministers of all ages and sections to pray fervently and study perseveringly, to show themselves approved unto God—workmen that needeth not to be ashamed of their efforts, but able rightfully to divide the truth and *feed their flocks abundantly.*

We recommend the following schools to the favorable consideration of our people: Wayland Seminary, Washington, D. C.; Calvin Institute, Richmond, Va.; Baptist Institute, Nashville, Tenn.; Baptist College, Atlanta, Ga., and Leland University, New Orleans, La. We would also advise our people to avail themselves of the benefits of any good institutions of learning within their reach.

Respectfully submitted,

H. THOMPSON,
J. NICHOLS,
A. GORDON,
T. GLENN,
A. CURTIS,
J. E. TWITTY, Committee.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY.

Dear Brethren—I commenced my work June 1st, 1875, and ended November 24th, 1875. I have visited fifty-two churches, and preached one hundred and five sermons. I have visited twenty-three Sabbath Schools, given 46 lectures and written one hundred and fifty letters. I have organized one association, travelled 1923 miles and collected $385.19. My expenses for travelling were 94.90; salary of Missionary, $200. I hold a balance of 90.29 which I am ready to pay to the Convention. The cities that I have visited have churches that average 700 or 800 members and, with few exceptions, are in prosperous condition. I regret to say that in the city churches the members of societies sometimes allow their society interests to interfere with the prosperity of their churches. I hope that our dear brethren and sisters, who are trying to do good in our various societies, will do their Saviour's Church no harm. The town churches that I have visited average about 300 or 400 members, are in prosperous condition, and I rather think that they possess more spiritual vitality than the city churches. I am truly sorry to say that there is much superstition among some of our country churches. Some of them care very little about the Bible; they say they have a Bible written in their hearts. (O, God, bring the day, and drive the darkness from over my poor people! but this is a call for more prayer, more faith, more work on our part.—Cor. Sec'y.) My conclusion with respect to the wants of our denomination in the State are, namely: 1. We greatly need a better educated ministry. 2. A voice from behind us is loudly calling for more vital christianity among us. 3. We need a better understanding respecting Baptist principles and church government. 4. Our Sabbath School interest is lying in waste for want of competent teachers. 5. We need a school for the education of the young ministry that God is calling to fill our stead.

I received money as follows: Old Elam Church, of Montgomery, $4.35; First Colored Baptist Church, Montgomery, $19.00; St. Louis Street Church, Mobile, $15; Tallassee Church, near Montgomery, $5.55; Rehoboth, near Montgomery, $12; Wetumpka Baptist Church, $10.15; Mt. Zion, near Wetumpka, $2.50; Mt. Meigs Church, $13.40; Mt. Canaan Church, near Montgomery, $4.90; Bethel, near Montgomery, $1.40; Union Springs Church, $8.30; Abefoil Church, near Union Springs, $0.75; Eufaula Church, $6.95; Clayton Church, $7.00; Fort Browder Church, near Eufaula, $2.40: Macedonia Church, near Midway, 86c.; Tuskegee Church, $7; Cross Keys Church, $5.55; Auburn Church, $10.75; Opelika Church, $9.15; Talladega Church, $13.90; African Church, near Talladega, $2.75; Mt. Pilgrim Church, Elyton, $2.25; Tuscaloosa Church, $10.70; First Baptist Church, Eutaw, $6; Mt. Olive Church, Mt. Hebron, $3; Gainesville Bap't Church, $8.10; Sumterville Church, $7.10; Livingston Church, $10.20,

Methodist Church, Wetumpka, $1.25; A. M. E. Church $1.65; Demopolis Church, $14.40; Mt. Zion Church, Crosswell, —; Palestine Church, Demopolis, $14.60; Uniontown Church, $6.00; Newbern Church, $10.85; New Hope Church, Newbern; $7.15, Marion Church, $12.75. Greensboro Church, $15; First Colored Baptist Church, Selma, $20.50; Bethel Church, Selma, $1.80; Mt. Zion Church, Selma, $5; St. Paul's Church, Selma, $4; Lowndesboro Church, $24; Government Street Congregation, $1.05; Dog River Church, $1.15; Stone Street Church, Mobile, $13.25. In Greensboro the following persons donated one dollar: Mr. M. Goochee, Mrs. S. Jones, Mr. B. Flinn. Donations in Lowndsboro—Brothers H. Turner, $1.50; J. Brown, $1; E. Merriwether, $1; D. Taylor, $1; and Sisters M. McCaw .50; M. Bowling .50; L. Brown, .50; C. Rambo, .50; Marion S. S., $5; Greensboro S. S., $5.

W. H. McALPINE, Missionary.

C. O. Booth presented $1 each from the following persons: E. Shepard, James Shepard, S. Simpson, E. Young, B. York, H. Warren, A. Triggs, and C. O. Booth.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

Northwest District—Elder T. Dixon, President; A. Jackson, Secretary.
Southwest District—Elder M. Tyler, President; J. L. Montague, Secretary.
Northeast District—Elder H. Wood, President; H. Williams, Secretary.
Southeast District—Elder J. Shorter, President; B. Clark, Secretary.
Executive Board—Elders H. Stephens, J. Blevins, A. Cunningham, B. Clark, W. H. McAlpine, J. Eperson, S. Jones, J. Shorter, E. Thornton, P. Underwood and the officers of the Convention.
Sabbath School Board—W. H. McAlpine, A. Cunningham, A. Butler, J. White, A. H. Curtis, F. McDonald, A. Davis, G. Casby, S. M. Reeves, A. Gordon, B. Ware, L. Brown, W. Harrison, A. Scott, D. Boyd.
Board of Trustees for School.—On first year term—The officers of the Convention. On the two-years term—Elders J. Ware, J. Shorter, J. Blevens, P. Underwood, W. H. McAlpine. On the three-years term—Elders B. Burk, A. Butler, J. Dozier, H. Stephens and C. Blunt. Respectfully submitted, W. H. McALPINE, Chm'n Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

As a great deal may be done in properly managed Sabbath Schools, toward preparing our children to fill the places in the Saviour's Church, that we are so soon to leave empty, therefore, we would request all our churches to foster their Sabbath Schools with much concern; to nourish them with pastoral and parental affections, and provide them with good books and Sabbath School papers from the "Baptist Publication Society," of No. 530 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Respectfully submitted,

A. H. CURTIS,
H. THOMPSON,
J. E. TWITTY,
H. A. LOVELISS,
A. CUNNINGHAM, Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSION WORK.

As it is the desire of this Convention to effect a thorough union of the Baptist fraternity of Alabama, as well as to build a theological school for the education of our ministry, therefore, we, your Committee would recommend to the Convention the propriety of employing Elder W. H. McAlpine, as Missionary and agent of this Convention for twelve months, at a salary of $500 above expenses.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. STEPHENS, Chm'n Com.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Amount paid out	$243.25
Amount cash on hand	416.14
Amount in notes from Bro. H. Thompson	35.00
Amount in notes from Bro. J. A. Foster	22.50
Amount in notes from Bro. P. Murrrell	24.50
Total amount cash and notes	$498.14

Respectfully submitted,

H. STEPHENS,
A. GORDON,
J. L. MONTAGUE,
A. JACKSON, Committee.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This body shall be called "THE COLORED MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION OF ALABAMA."

ARTICLE II.

It shall be the object of this Convention to propagate the Gospel of Christ, and to advance the interest of his Kingdom by supplying vacant churches when requested; by sending ministers into destitute regions within our reach, and by planting and building up churches whenever a favorable opportunity offers, and also to promote the educational interests of the destitute. This Convention shall in no case interfere with the internal regulations of churches or associations.

ARTICLE III.

Every Baptist Minister, who is in good and regular standing in any Baptist Church, and who is acceptable to the pastor or pastors of said Church or Churches, provided he or they are members of this Convention, may become a life member by contributing $2.00 to its funds. Any Church Association or Missionary Society, shall be entitled to one representative, and another for every two hundred members. Any person may become a member by contributing $1.00 annually. None but Baptists in good and regular standing shall be entitled to vote on questions before the Convention.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be members of the Executive Board, and the Board shall not exceed fifteen in number, who shall be annually elected by acclamation.

ARTICLE V.

The Executive Board shall constitute a Board for the transaction of business during the recess of the Convention. They are to apply the funds appropriated by the Convention on approved missionary fields and labors. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, without which number no business shall be transacted.

ARTICLE VI.

The Treasurer shall give such security as shall be approved by the Convention, for all moneys committed to his trust; he shall keep a faithful account of all moneys received and expended, and report the same to each annual meeting. No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, during the recess of the Convention, without an order from the Corresponding Secretary, signed by the President and Vice-President and regularly ordered by a majority of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a faithful record of all the doings of the Convention; he shall enroll the names of all the members of the Convention, from the time of its origin to the time being, and submit the same for examination to each annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Board. All communications from societies, churches and individuals, relating to the Convention must be made to him. All letters, papers, packages, etc., officially received by him, shall be the property of the Convention. He shall present all bills of the postage on the same, and shall present reports of the doings of the Board at each annual meeting for acceptance and payment; he shall draw drafts on the Treasurer, according to Article VI, of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any annual meeting, provided at least six months' notice has been given to the Corresponding Secretary, who shall report the same to the annual meeting.

ACTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, DONE DECEMBER 22D, 1875, IN THE FIRST COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY.

The Misssionary commissioned.
Six dollars donated to buy maps, etc.
One hundred dollars loaned to the Missionary upon interest.
Elder C. O. Booth authorized as agent for the "Theological Seminary."
Brethren T. P. Miller and C. E. Thames, of Mobile, Dr. D. W. Gwinn, of Montgomery, Dr. Tagues, of Selma, and Elder N. A. Bailey, of Talladega, were appointed a committee to receive and invest any moneys that may be donated for the building of the Theological School.
Brethren Chas. Goesby, of Selma, M. Watson, of Montgomery, E. C. Rivers, of Talladega, were selected to the Nashville Institute, and allowed a donation of $50.00 each.
The IIId Article of the Constitution revised.
The Missionary allowed a "printed heading" for a subscription list.
Adjourned to meet one day before the next session of the Convention.

J. A. FOSTER, Chm'n.

C. O. BOOTH, Clerk.

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STATISTICAL TABLE.

ASSOCIATIONS.	DELEGATES.	LOCATIONS.	No. Churches.	No. Members.	Donation.
Auburn	T. Glenn, D. Phillips	About Auburn	31	3469	$10 00
Alabama	M. Tyler, H. Thompson	" Montgom'y	47	6372	36 00
Rushing Springs.	H. Wood	" Talladega	15	1914	.....
Bethlehem	T. Dixon	" Eutaw	..	....	.....
Cahaba	P. Underwood, D. Boyd, T Mosely	" Cahaba	24	5275	15 00
Star-Hope.	M. Boykin, Wm. Scott	" Greenville	21	....	3 00
Uniontown	J. L. Montague	" Newbern	11	....	5 00
Eufaula	J. Shorter	" Eufaula	..	....	10 00
Col'd Bethlehem.	A. Cunningham, A. R. Davison	Monroeville	..	....	.....
Byram	T. Woody	.....	13	1155	2 75

NEW ASSOCIATIONS.

ASSOCIATIONS.	DELEGATES.	LOCATIONS.	No. Churches.	No. Members.	Donation.
Central	J. Lenard	Greenville	..	....	$ 5 00
Morning Star	E. Nicholis	.....	..	....	5 00
Shelby Springs.	H. Wood, B. Ware	Childersburg	23	....	.....
Mt. Petgrin	H. Wood	.....	7	723	.....
East Florida	J. Shorter	Eufaula	..	....	.....
Christian	J. W. Stephens, H. Thomson, A. Loveliss	Montgomery	..	....	.....
Pine Grove	E. Thornton	Union Springs	..	....	.....

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VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY RICHMOND, VA.